

# X-FACTOR

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# X-FACTOR



## PREVIOUSLY...

A DETECTIVE AGENCY THAT SPECIALIZES IN ILLUMINATING THE DARK CORNERS OF THE WORLD OF SUPER HEROES, JAMIE MADROX AND X-FACTOR INVESTIGATIONS ARE NO STRANGERS TO THE STRANGE AND UNUSUAL. WHETHER THEY'RE SEARCHING FOR RENEGADE SUPER-POWERED MERCENARIES, EVADING LUPINE GODHEADS, OR PROTECTING THEIR CLIENT FROM EVIL DEMONS, THEY NEVER FAIL TO CLOSE A CASE. THE TEAM HAS BEEN THROUGH THEIR SHARE OF PERSONAL TRAGEDIES, BUT THROUGH IT ALL, THEY REMAIN A CLOSE-KNIT FAMILY... ALBEIT ONE WITH ITS SHARE OF SECRETS.

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WHO ARE  
YOU?! WHERE  
DID YOU COME  
FROM?!

WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE?!

GOOD QUESTIONS. THE  
OLDEST ONES, PONDERED  
BY MANKIND'S GREATEST  
PHILOSOPHERS AND  
THINKERS FOR AS LONG AS  
THERE'S BEEN A MANKIND.

IT'S JUST THAT SOCRATES  
AND HIS PALS DIDN'T HAVE  
TO DO IT WITH A SHOTGUN  
POINTED AT THEM.

ALTHOUGH SOCRATES WAS  
FORCED TO DRINK POISON  
BECAUSE HE WAS ACCUSED OF  
CORRUPTING YOUNG PEOPLE.

SO I SUPPOSE HAVING  
ONE'S LIFE THREATENED  
IS HARDLY A NEW INVENTION.  
PLUS IT PROVES THAT EVEN  
THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO...

PEOPLE WERE  
OVERSENSITIVE  
ABOUT THEIR  
KID'S WELFARE.

OF COURSE,  
NOWADAYS...





KIDS ARE PRETTY  
CAPABLE OF  
TAKING CARE OF  
THEMSELVES.

PUT YOUR  
HANDS IN THE  
AIR! NOW!



LOOK, KID...  
WE'RE NOT A  
THREAT. I  
SWEAR.

WE WERE  
JUST...

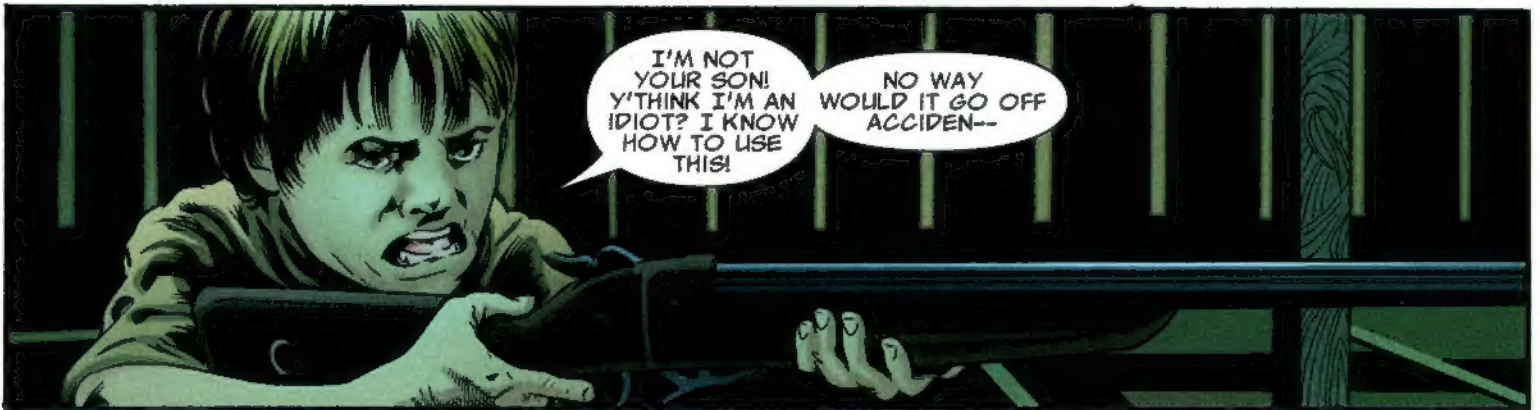
SIGHTSEEING.

I DON'T  
CARE! PUT  
YOUR HANDS  
UP!



FIRST, YOU  
PUT THE GUN  
DOWN. YOUR  
HANDS ARE  
SHAKING,  
SON...

YOU  
WOULDN'T WANT  
IT TO GO OFF  
ACCIDENTALLY.



I'M NOT  
YOUR SON!  
Y' THINK I'M AN  
IDIOT? I KNOW  
HOW TO USE  
THIS!

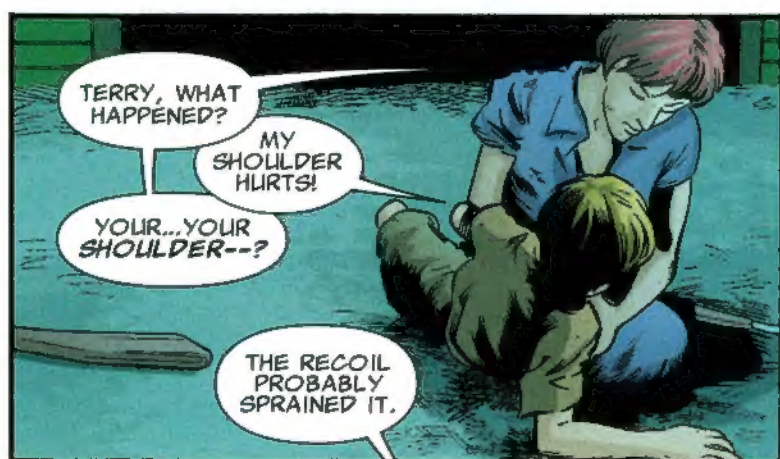
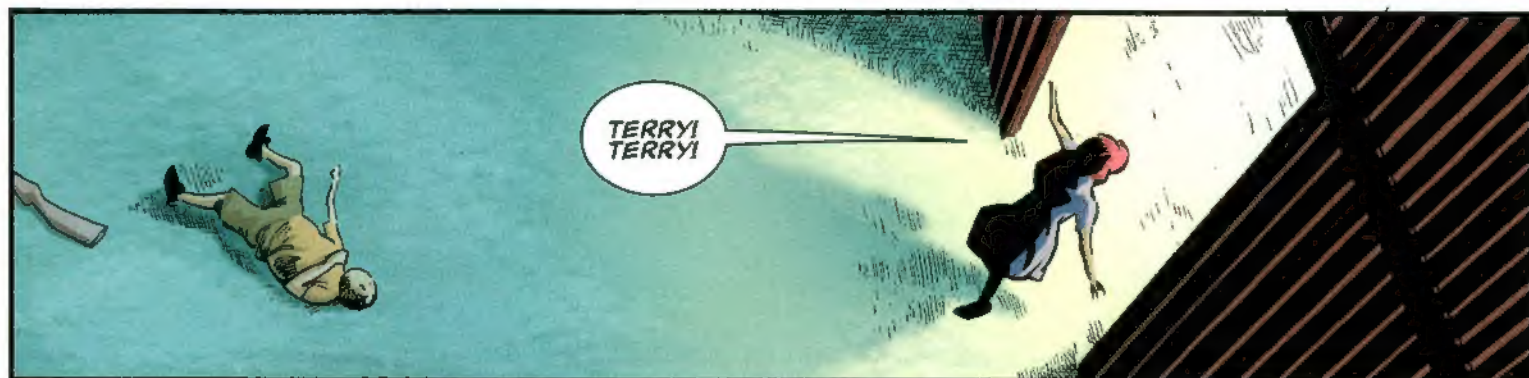
NO WAY  
WOULD IT GO OFF  
ACCIDEN--



AHHHHH!!

**BLAAM!**









LOOK, THIS IS ALL JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING.

I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE ANYONE WAS LIVING HERE.

THE "FOR SALE" SIGN WAS OUT THERE, I DIDN'T SEE ANY VEHICLES...



UHM... WHAT'S WITH THE CUTLERY?



THE GUY WITH A FORCE FIELD IS ASKING ME ABOUT A KNIFE?

FAIR POINT.

I HEARD THE GUN GO OFF, AND I THOUGHT MAYBE SOMEONE WAS ATTACKING MY SON...



LOOK, TO SAY WE GOT OFF ON THE WRONG FOOT IS UNDERSTATING IT.

I'M JAMIE MADROX. THIS IS LAYLA MILLER.

ARE YOU WITH A GANG?

PARDON?



THE TATTOOS ON YOUR FACES. I FIGURED YOU WERE PART OF A GANG.

OH. UH... NO. THAT'S A... THAT'S A DIFFERENT THING.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?



ACTUALLY...

I USED TO LIVE HERE.

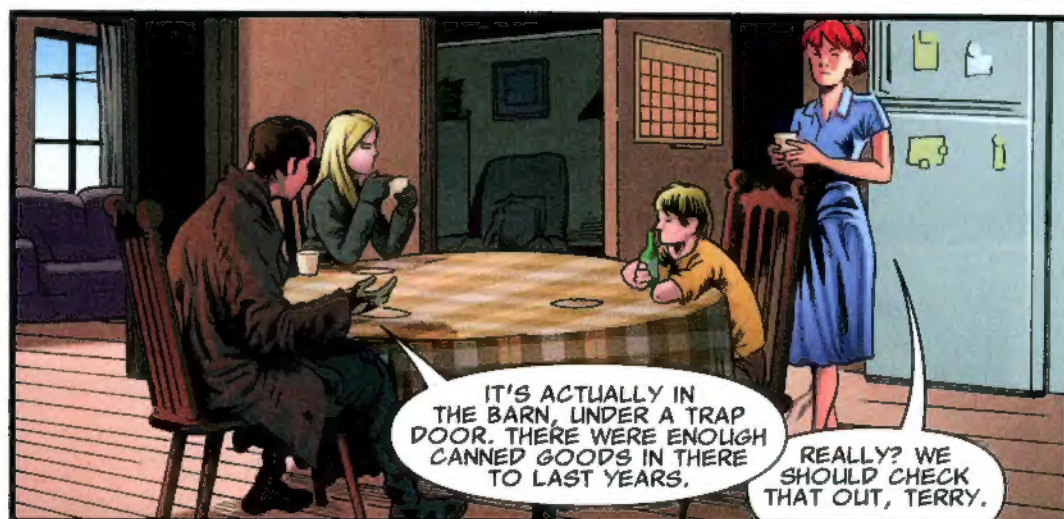


WHEN RELATING INFORMATION TO PEOPLE, YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO PICK AND CHOOSE WHICH DETAILS TO LEAVE OUT.

I DON'T SEE MUCH POINT IN TELLING HER THAT MY PARENTS WERE MURDERED BY AN ARTIFICIALLY CREATED TORNADO...

...MANUFACTURED BY ONE MR. TRYB WHO WANTED TO ISOLATE ME AND OBSERVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF MY MUTANT POWERS.

SO INSTEAD...







"ACTUALLY, IT'S A DETECTIVE AGENCY, X-FACTOR INVESTIGATIONS. WE LOOK INTO...UNUSUAL CASES."

"THAT'S WHY I HAPPENED TO BE IN THIS NECK OF THE WOODS. SOMEONE IN TOWN CONTACTED US."

"WHY? IS THERE SOMETHING DANGEROUS--?"



"OH NO. NO, NOT AT ALL."

"CHANCES ARE IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING."



"OUR CLIENT IS A YOUNG GUY--A CONSPIRACY THEORIST, NEAR AS I CAN TELL..."

"...WHO'S CONVINCED THAT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH AN OLD WOMAN LIVING IN AN APARTMENT OVER THE HARDWARE STORE."

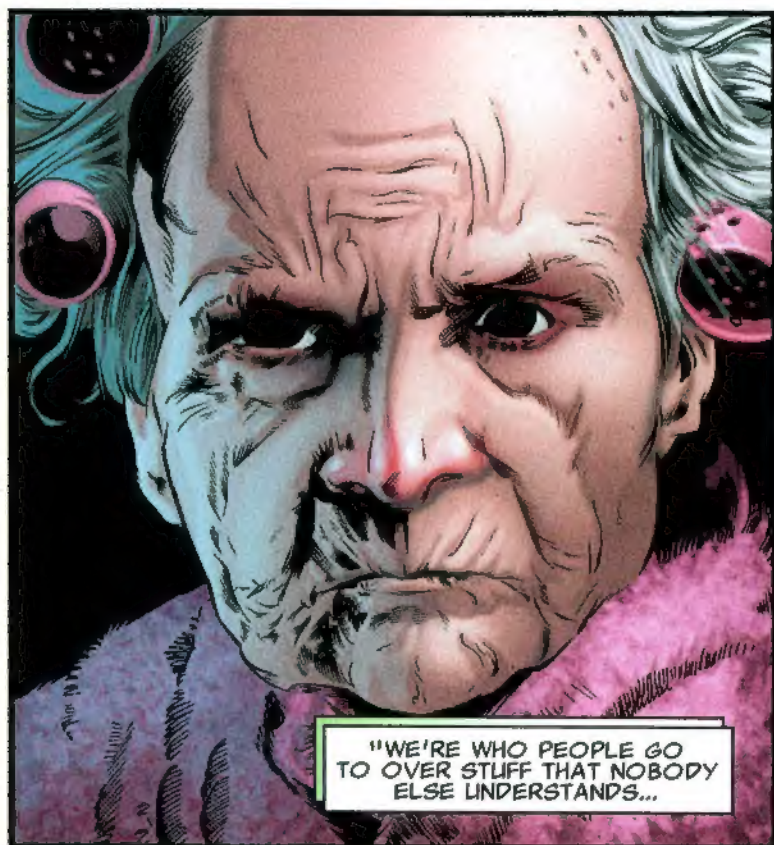
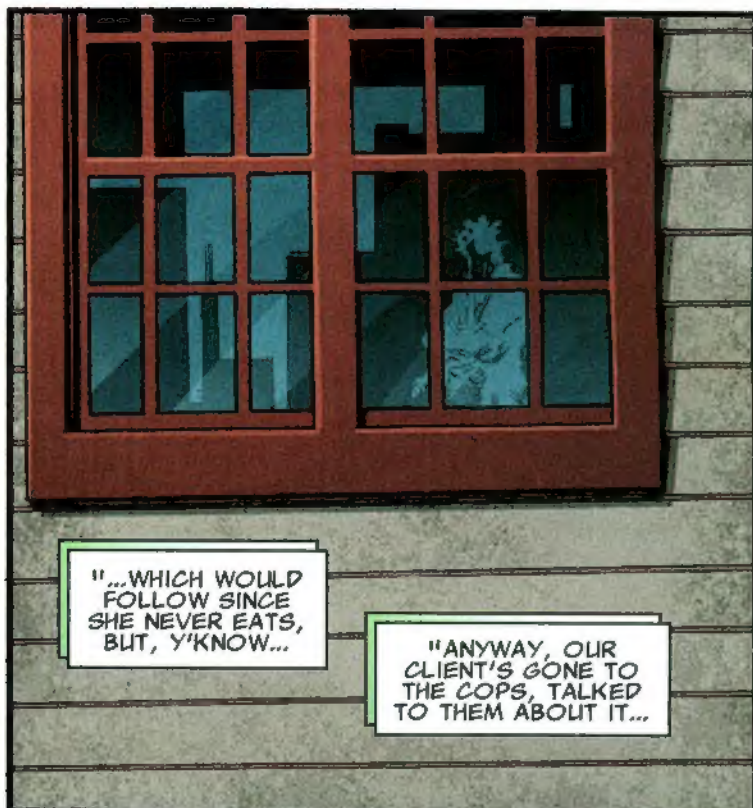


"WRONG? YOU MEAN, LIKE, SHE'S SICK?"



"NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT."



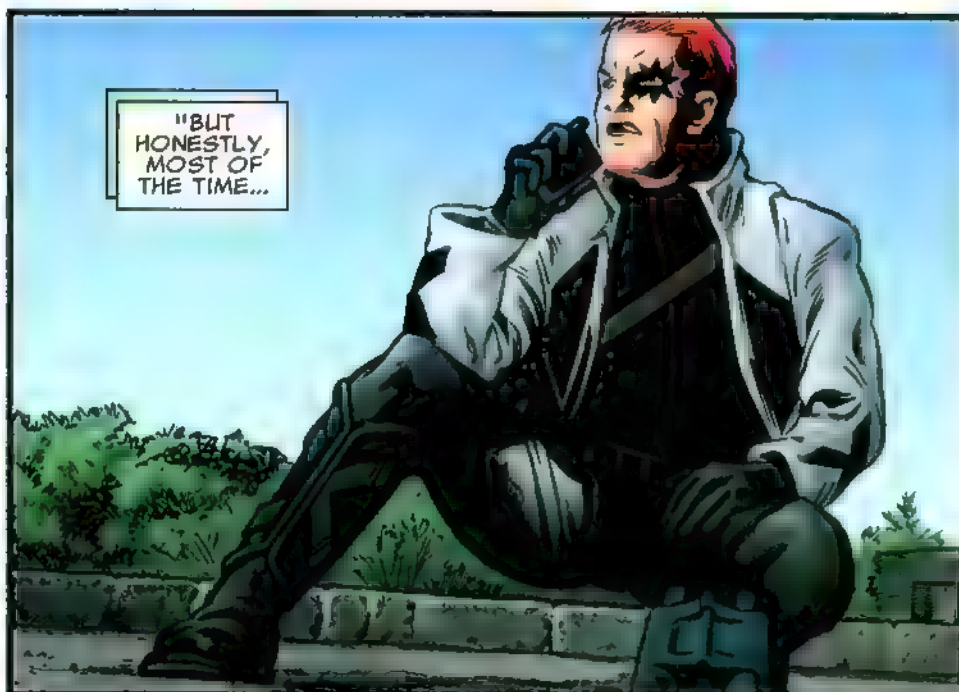




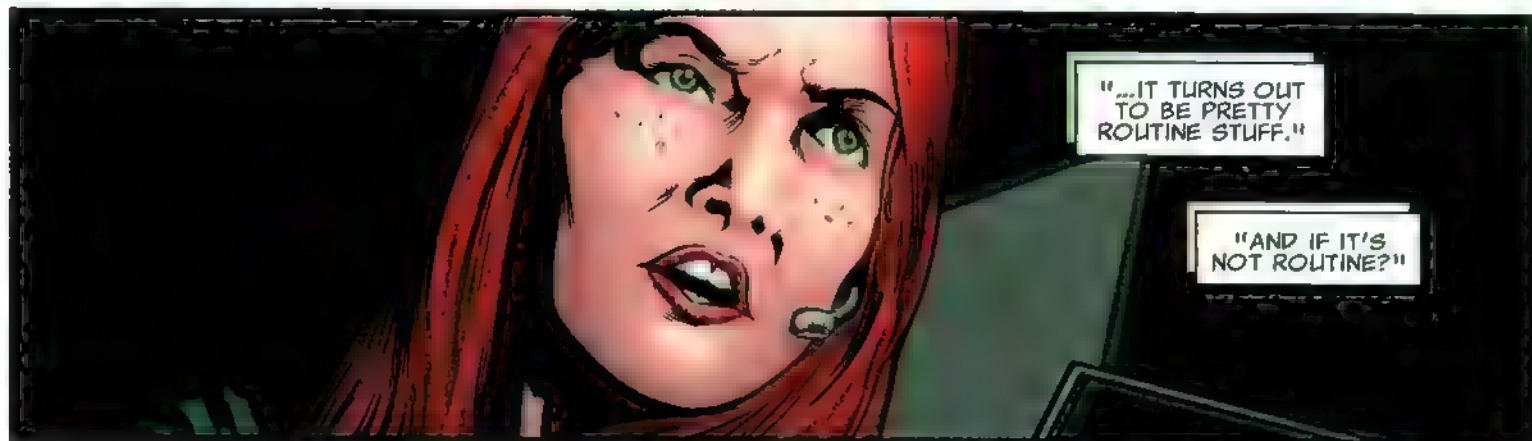


"THAT ALL  
SOUNDS  
VERY  
EXCITING,  
MR.  
MADROX."

"WELL, IT  
CAN BE."



"BUT  
HONESTLY,  
MOST OF  
THE TIME..."



"...IT TURNS OUT  
TO BE PRETTY  
ROUTINE STUFF."

"AND IF IT'S  
NOT ROUTINE?"



"THEN BELIEVE  
ME, MY PEOPLE  
CAN HANDLE IT."

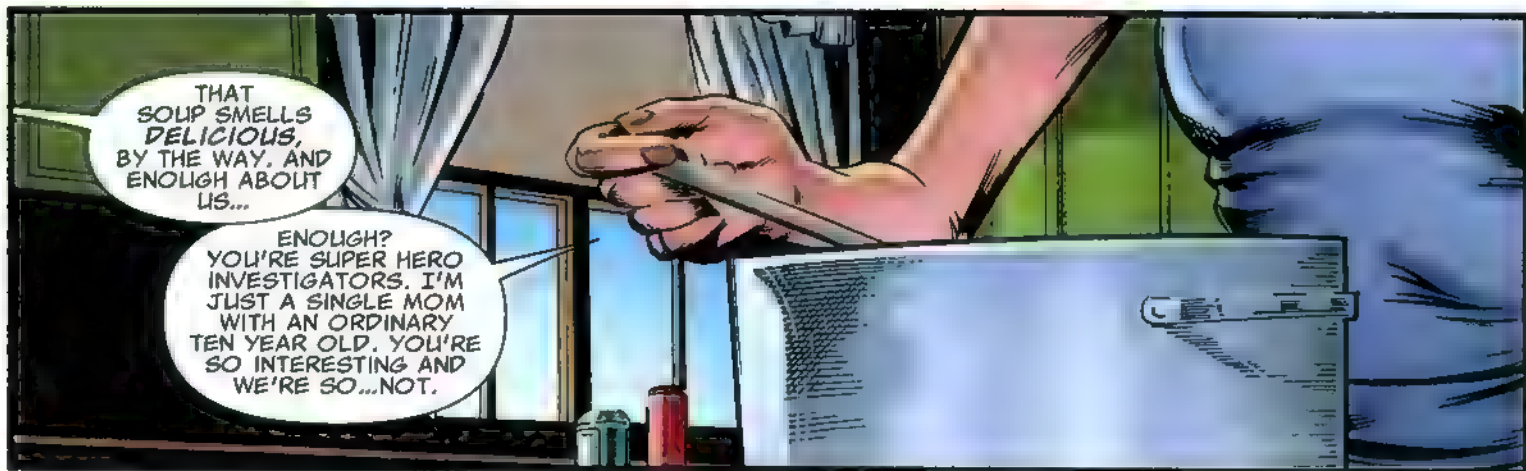
"I WOULDN'T BE  
HERE CHATTING WITH  
YOU IF I DIDN'T  
HAVE FAITH IN THEM."



"PLUS YOU SAID  
THAT THIS  
PARTICULAR CASE  
IS PROBABLY  
NOTHING."

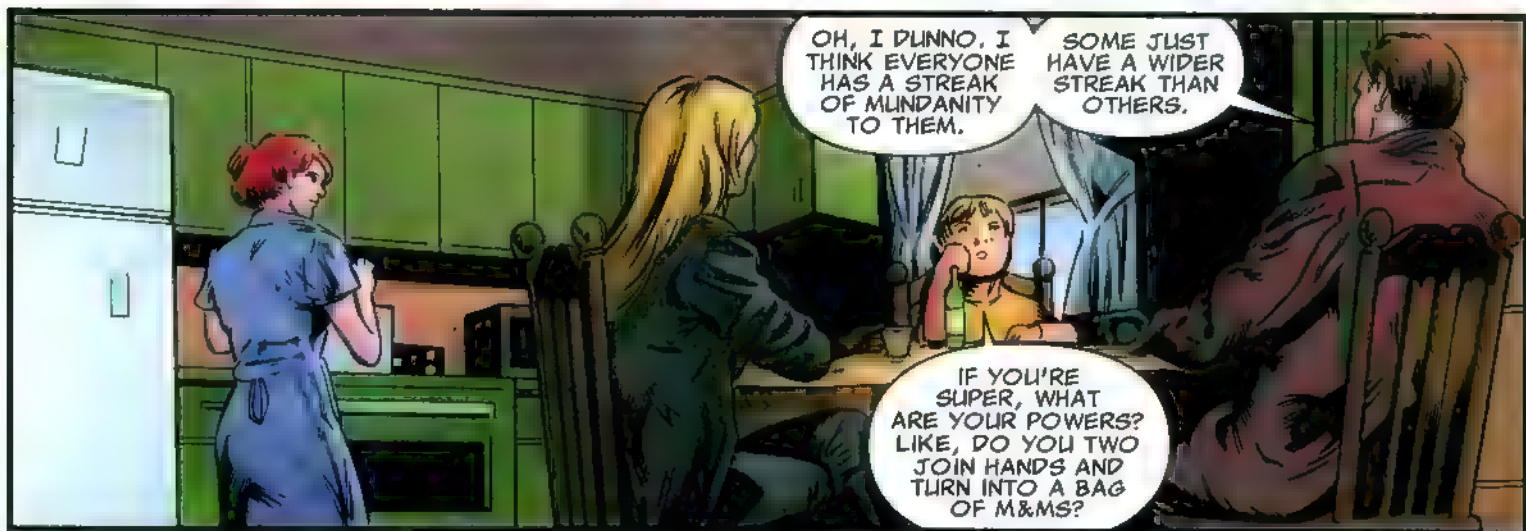
"NINETY-NINE  
PERCENT SURE,  
YEAH."





THAT  
SOUP SMELLS  
DELICIOUS,  
BY THE WAY, AND  
ENOUGH ABOUT  
US...

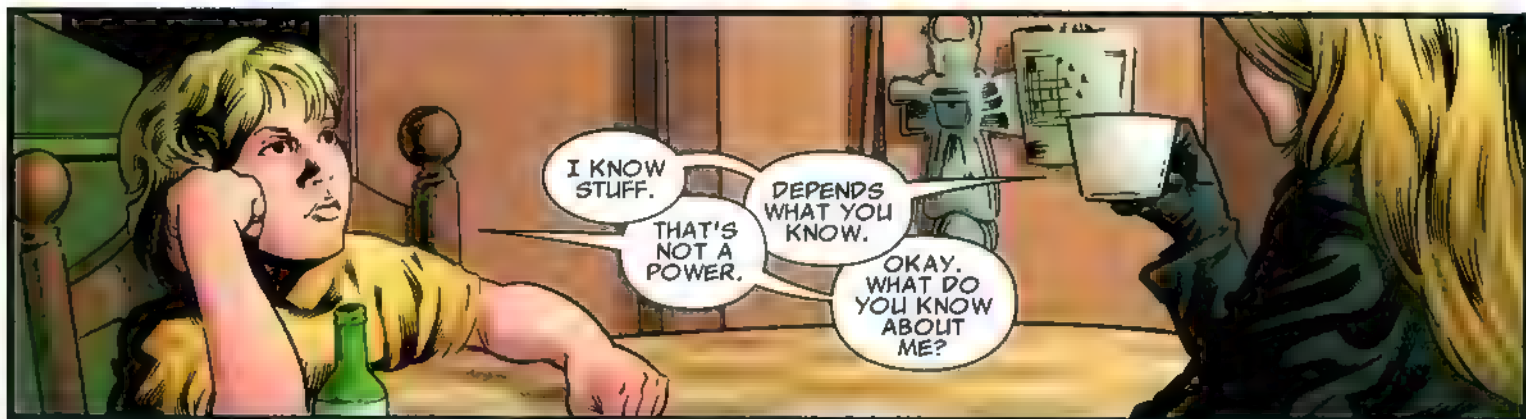
ENOUGH?  
YOU'RE SUPER HERO  
INVESTIGATORS. I'M  
JUST A SINGLE MOM  
WITH AN ORDINARY  
TEN YEAR OLD. YOU'RE  
SO INTERESTING AND  
WE'RE SO...NOT.



OH, I DUNNO. I  
THINK EVERYONE  
HAS A STREAK  
OF MUNDANITY  
TO THEM.

SOME JUST  
HAVE A WIDER  
STREAK THAN  
OTHERS.

IF YOU'RE  
SUPER, WHAT  
ARE YOUR POWERS?  
LIKE, DO YOU TWO  
JOIN HANDS AND  
TURN INTO A BAG  
OF M&MS?

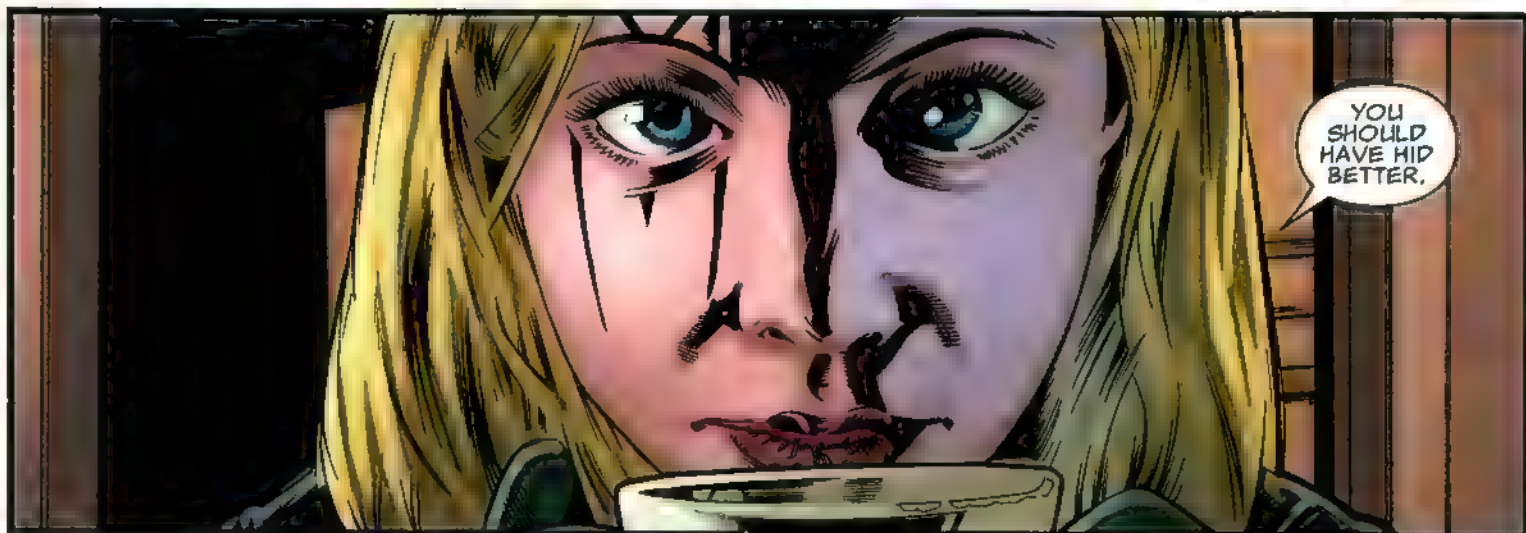


I KNOW  
STUFF.

THAT'S  
NOT A  
POWER.

DEPENDS  
WHAT YOU  
KNOW.

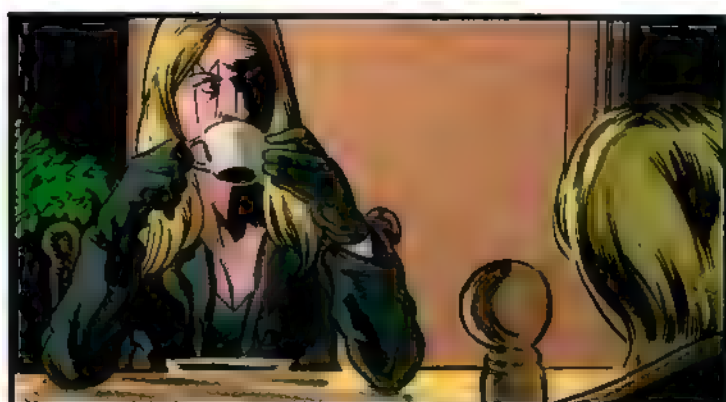
OKAY.  
WHAT DO  
YOU KNOW  
ABOUT  
ME?



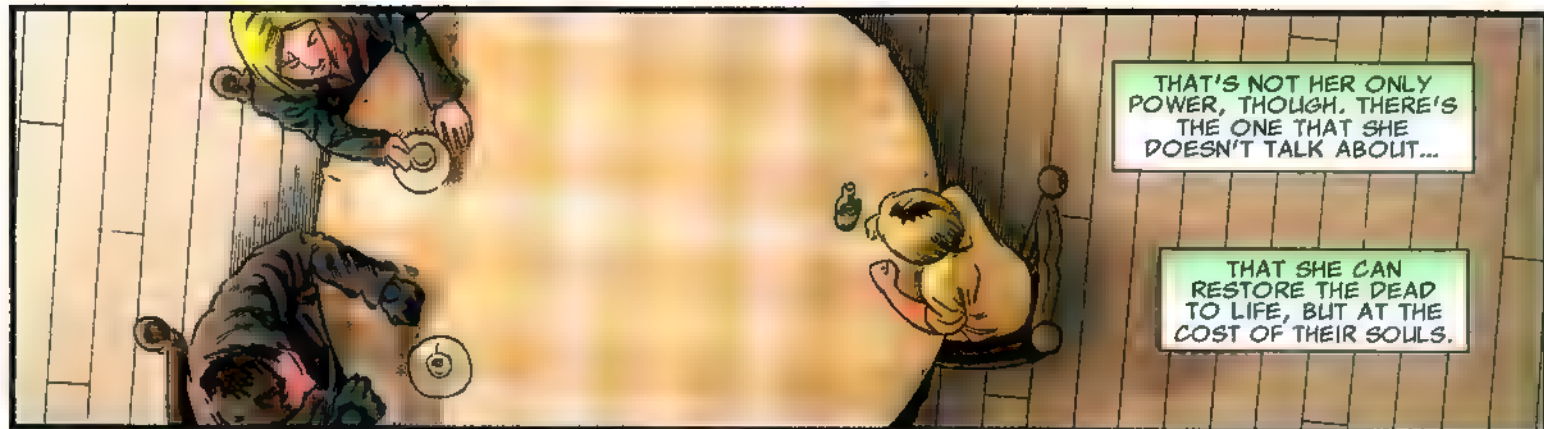
YOU  
SHOULD  
HAVE HID  
BETTER.



WHAT'S  
THAT  
SUPPOSED  
TO MEAN?







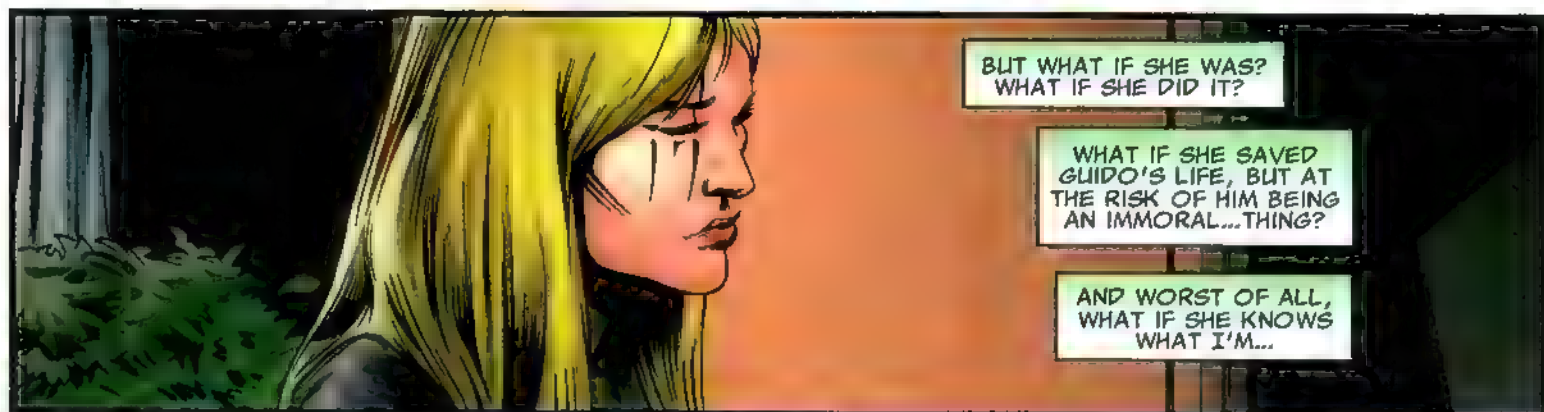
THAT'S NOT HER ONLY  
POWER, THOUGH. THERE'S  
THE ONE THAT SHE  
DOESN'T TALK ABOUT...

THAT SHE CAN  
RESTORE THE DEAD  
TO LIFE, BUT AT THE  
COST OF THEIR SOULS.



NOT LONG AGO,  
OUR TEAMMATE GUIDO  
WAS SHOT, KILLED.  
THEN "MIRACULOUSLY"  
HE CAME BACK TO LIFE.

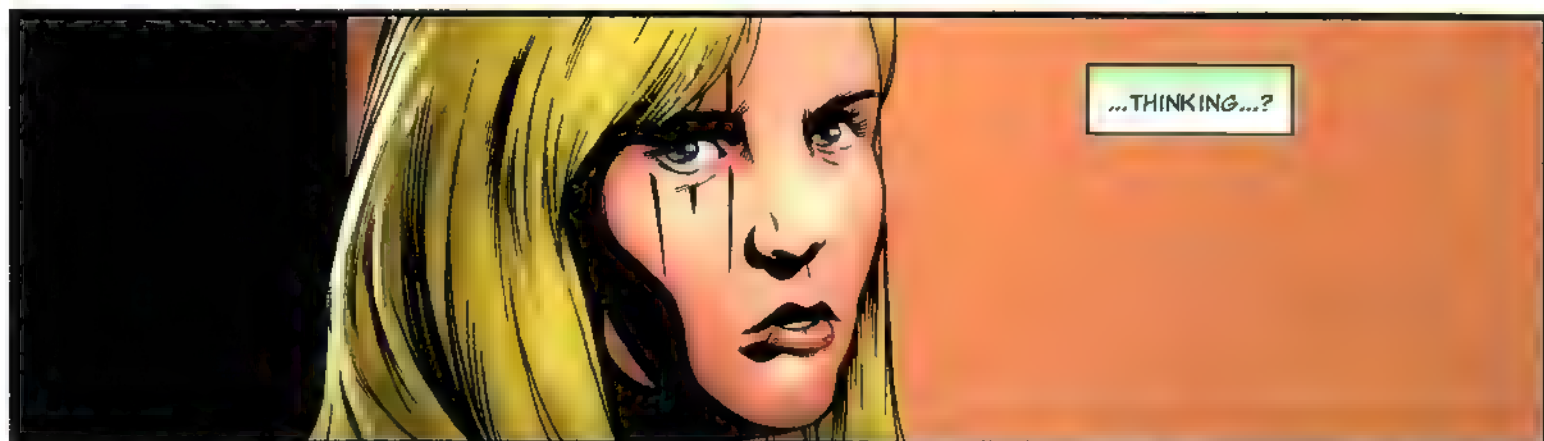
I DIDN'T SEE  
LAYLA ANYWHERE  
AROUND THERE.



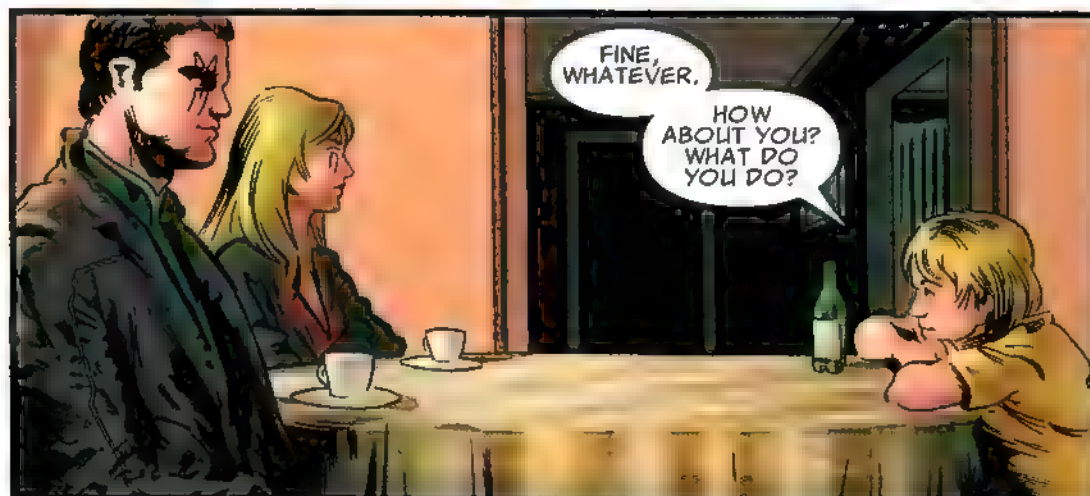
BUT WHAT IF SHE WAS?  
WHAT IF SHE DID IT?

WHAT IF SHE SAVED  
GUIDO'S LIFE, BUT AT  
THE RISK OF HIM BEING  
AN IMMORAL...THING?

AND WORST OF ALL,  
WHAT IF SHE KNOWS  
WHAT I'M...

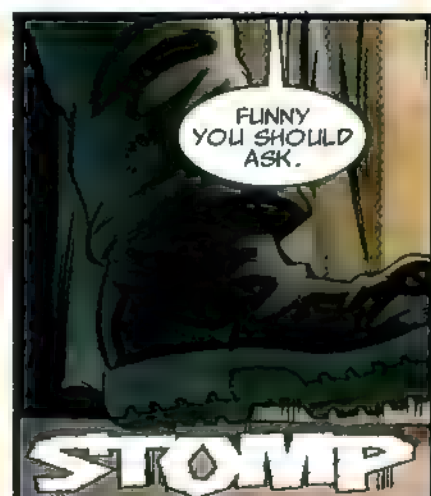


...THINKING...?



FINE,  
WHATEVER.

HOW  
ABOUT YOU?  
WHAT DO  
YOU DO?



FUNNY  
YOU SHOULD  
ASK.

**STOMP**





GOOD LORD!

AWESOME!

HOW DO YOU DO THAT?!!

IT JUST HAPPENS FROM ENOUGH OF AN IMPACT.



BUT HOW?! I MEAN, A CLONE I KINDA GET, BUT WHERE DO HIS CLOTHES COME FROM?

I DON'T REALLY KNOW. HONESTLY, I'M AFRAID SOMEDAY I'LL FIND OUT AND WON'T LIKE THE ANSWER.



AND IS HE JUST LIKE YOU?

YES, WELL...KIND OF...

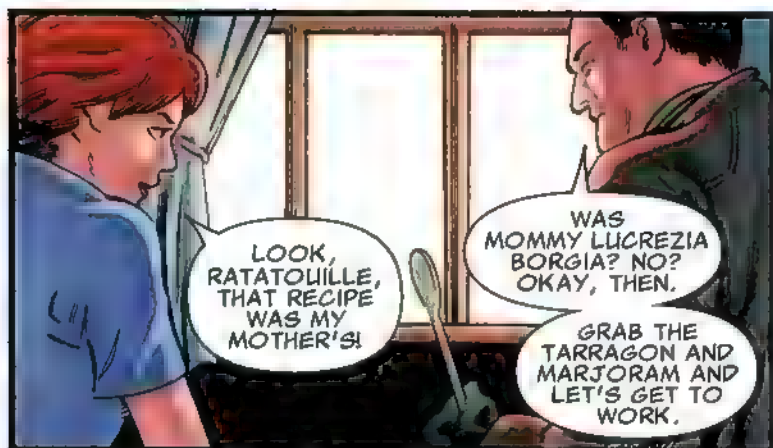
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT...



I'M CLEANING IT TO USE IT. SOMEONE HAS TO SAVE THE SOUP.

EX-EXCUSE ME?

I SAW THE INGREDIENTS. IF I ACT QUICKLY, I CAN SALVAGE IT...



LOOK, RATATOUILLE, THAT RECIPE WAS MY MOTHER'S!

WAS MOMMY LUCREZIA BORGIA? NO? OKAY, THEN.

GRAB THE TARRAGON AND MARJORAM AND LET'S GET TO WORK.



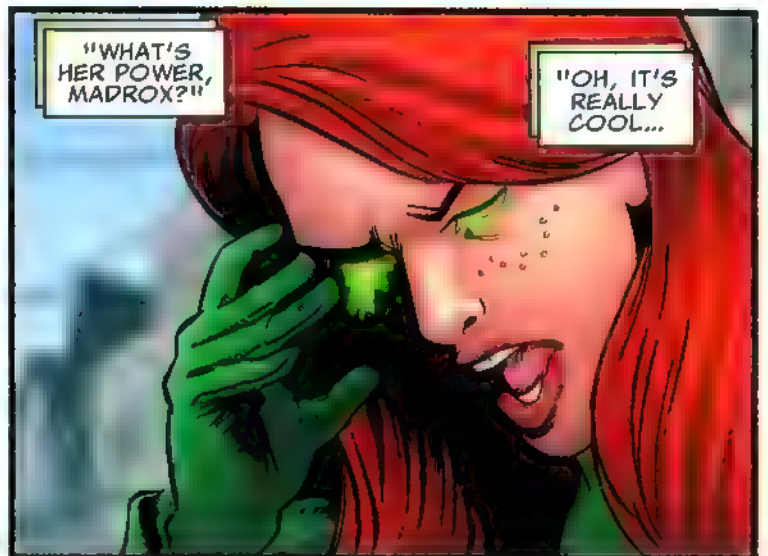
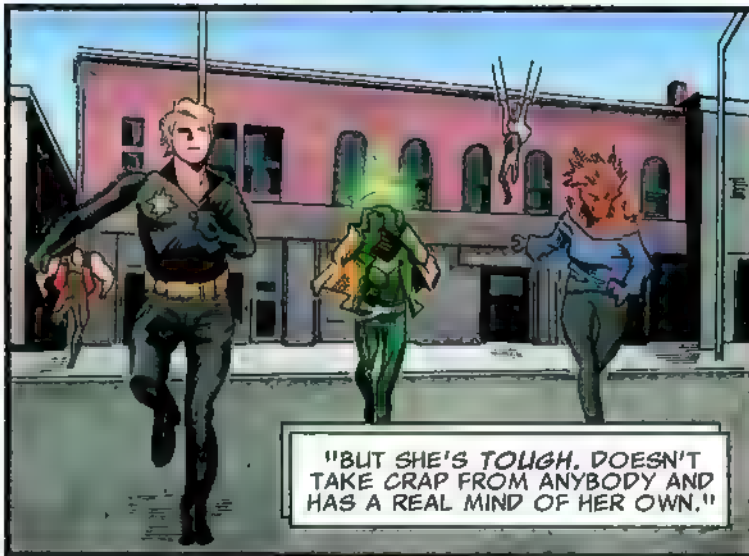
ACTUALLY, IT'S, UH...

IT'S... HARD TO EXPLAIN.


LIKE THE CLOTHES?

JUST LIKE.

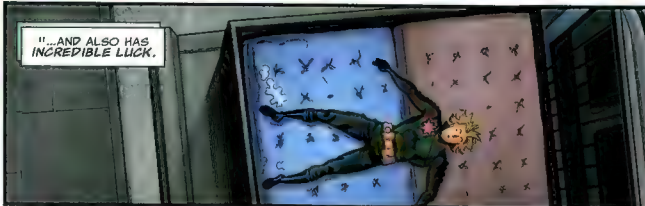








"SHE HAS A SONIC BLAST THAT HITS YOU LIKE A HUNDRED ANVILS."







"THERE'S M.  
SHE'S--"

"WAIT. M? THE  
OLD LADY FROM  
THE JAMES  
BOND MOVIES?"

"NO. TOTALLY  
DIFFERENT M."

"OKAY,  
WELL...WHAT  
CAN SHE DO?"



"PRETTY MUCH  
WHATEVER SHE SETS  
HER MIND TO."



"THAT'S A LOT  
OF PEOPLE ON  
YOUR TEAM,"

"COMPARED  
TO A BASKETBALL  
TEAM, MAYBE."



"BUT  
COMPARED  
TO A  
FOOTBALL  
TEAM, NOT  
REALLY."



"AND WHEN  
YOU PUT THEM  
ALL TOGETHER..."



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NO CAGES



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THE FIRST AVENGER  
IN THEATERS JULY 22

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"THERE'S REALLY  
NO CHALLENGE THEY  
CAN'T HANDLE."







OH MY GOD. I HATE YOU.



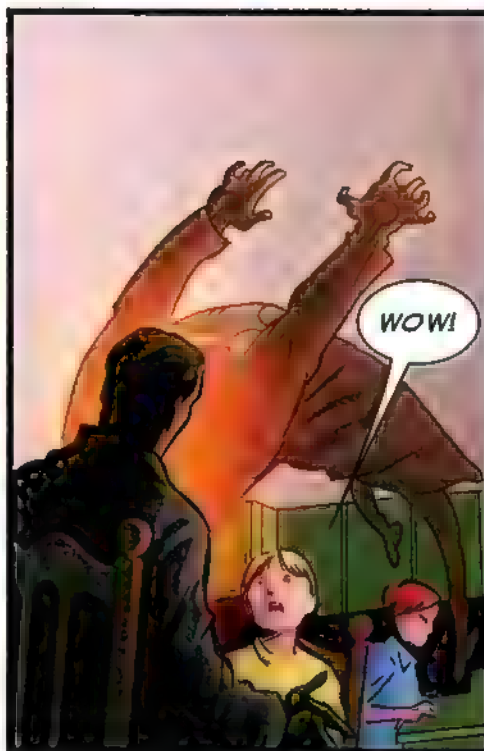
I MEAN IT, SERIOUS HATRED.

THE SOUP'S THAT GOOD.

YES. IT'S THAT GOOD, DAMN YOU. YOU'RE AMAZING.



DON'T SAY THAT. IT JUST ENCOURAGES THEM...



WOW!



HOW DID YOU DO THAT?

AGAIN...A LITTLE HAZY ON THE MECHANICS.

DOES IT HURT TO ABSORB A DUPE?

NO, NOT AT...



ACTUALLY... ONCE, ONE TIME IT HURT.



MADROXI YOU IN THERE? YOU SAID THIS IS WHERE YOU'D BE!

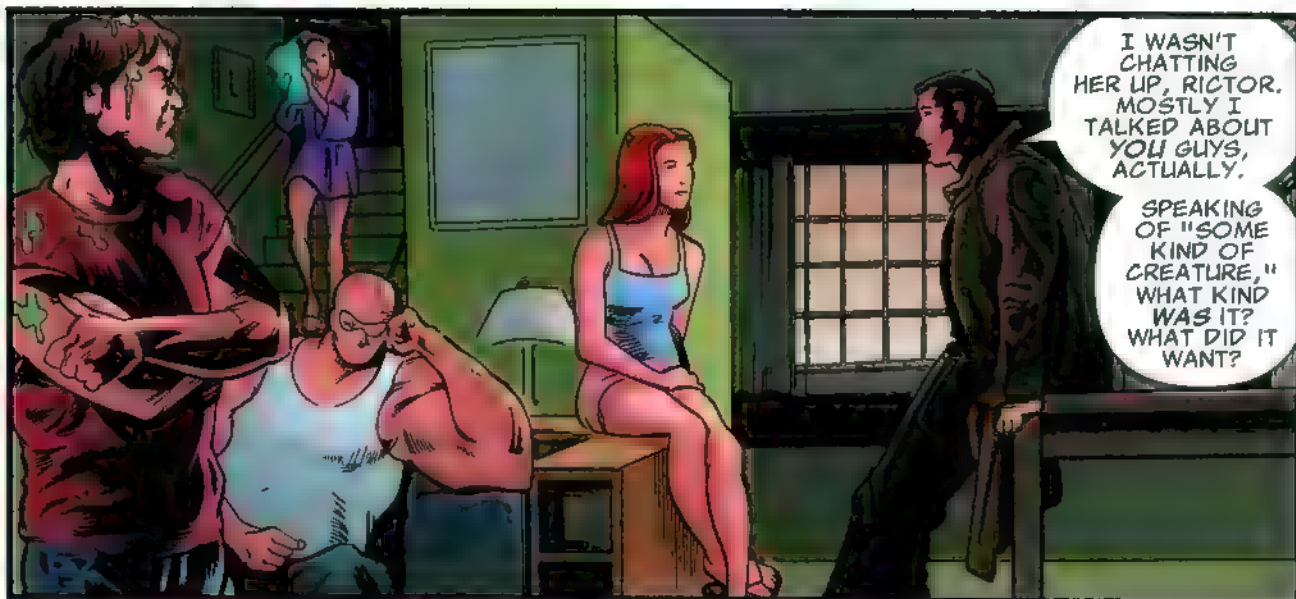






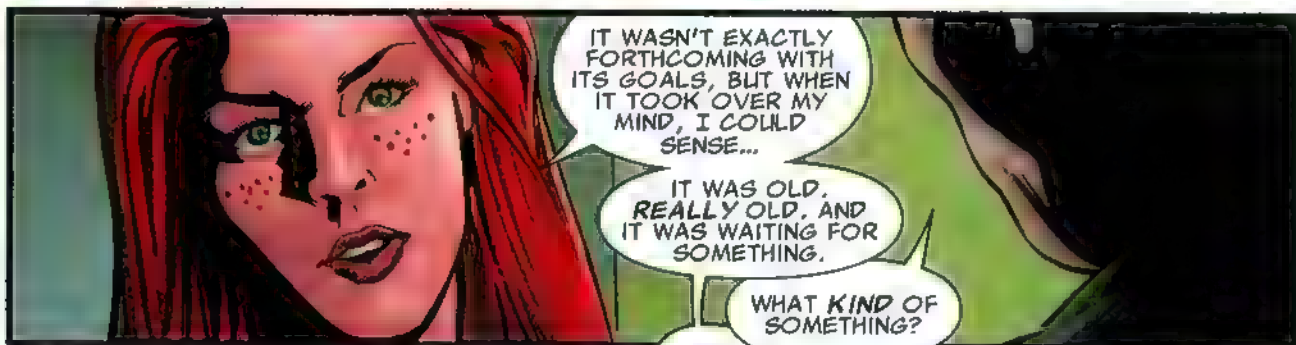
**X-FACTOR  
HQ, NEW  
YORK CITY.**

SO WE  
WIND UP  
FIGHTING  
SOME KIND  
OF CREATURE  
FOR A HALF  
HOUR WHILE  
YOU'RE  
CHATTING IT  
UP WITH A  
SINGLE MOM.



I WASN'T  
CHATTING  
HER UP, RICTOR.  
MOSTLY I  
TALKED ABOUT  
YOU GUYS,  
ACTUALLY.

SPEAKING  
OF "SOME  
KIND OF  
CREATURE,"  
WHAT KIND  
WAS IT?  
WHAT DID IT  
WANT?



IT WASN'T EXACTLY  
FORTHCOMING WITH  
ITS GOALS, BUT WHEN  
IT TOOK OVER MY  
MIND, I COULD  
SENSE...

IT WAS OLD.  
REALLY OLD. AND  
IT WAS WAITING FOR  
SOMETHING.

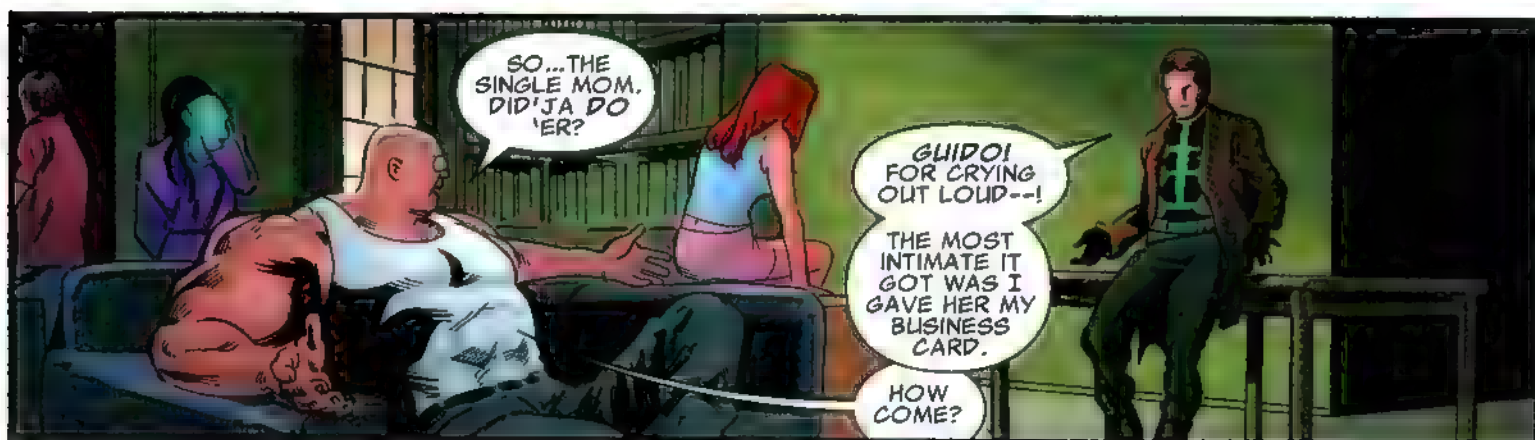
WHAT KIND OF  
SOMETHING?

NO  
IDEA.



THE  
UPSTAIRS  
SHOWER'S  
FREE.

TOOK LONG  
ENOUGH.



SO...THE  
SINGLE MOM.  
DID'JA DO  
'ER?

GLIDOI  
FOR CRYING  
OUT LOUD--!

THE MOST  
INTIMATE IT  
GOT WAS I  
GAVE HER MY  
BUSINESS  
CARD.

HOW  
COME?



SHE  
SEEMED  
NICE AND I  
FIGURED...







# NEXT



## X-FACTOR #225



On the tenth anniversary of America's greatest tragedy,  
Marvel salutes and remembers America's greatest heroes.



The following pages feature reprinted materials from "A Moment of Silence"  
and "Heroes" as they were originally published in the fall of 2001

**MARVEL**



# PERIPHERY

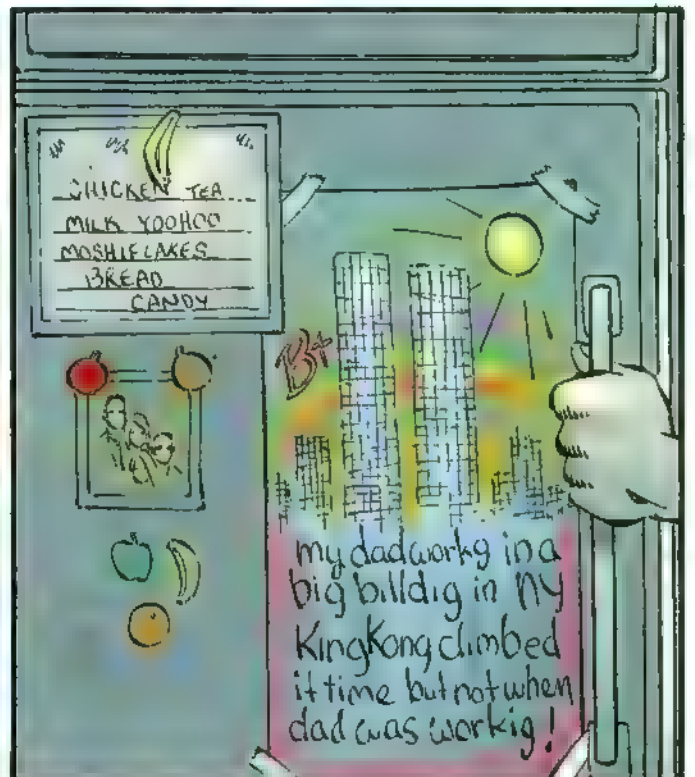
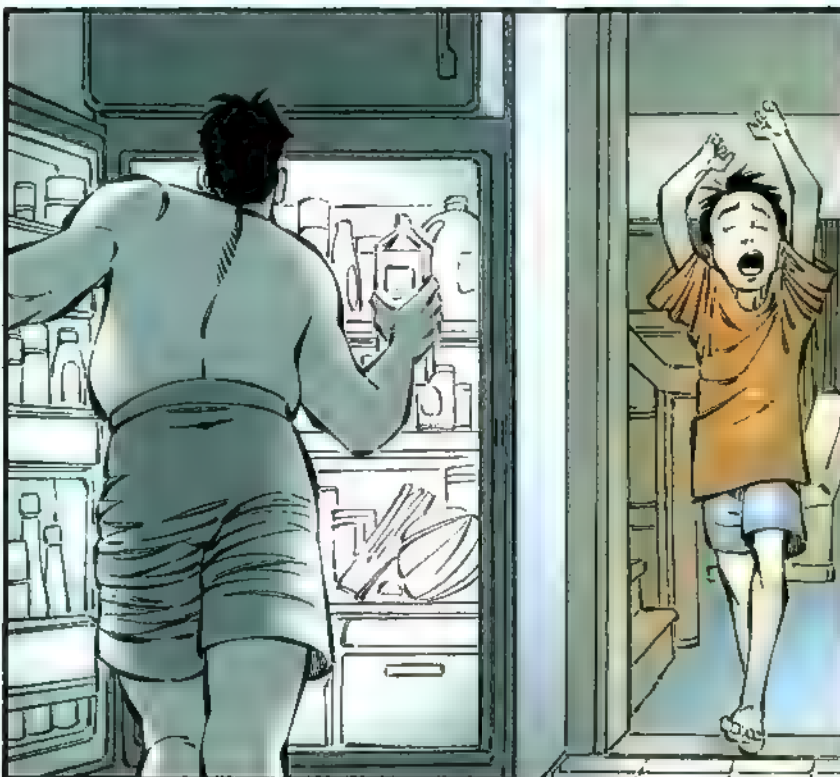
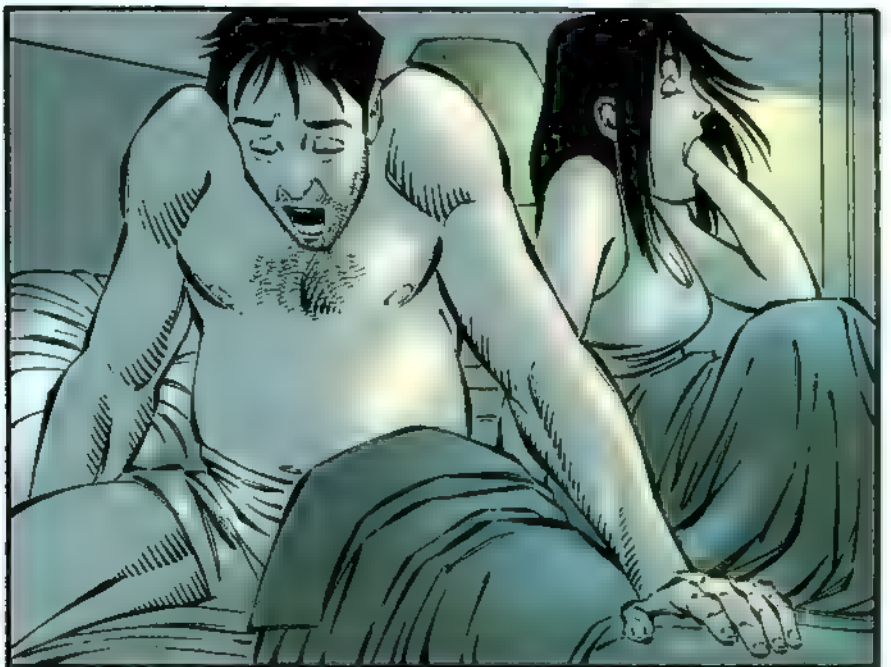
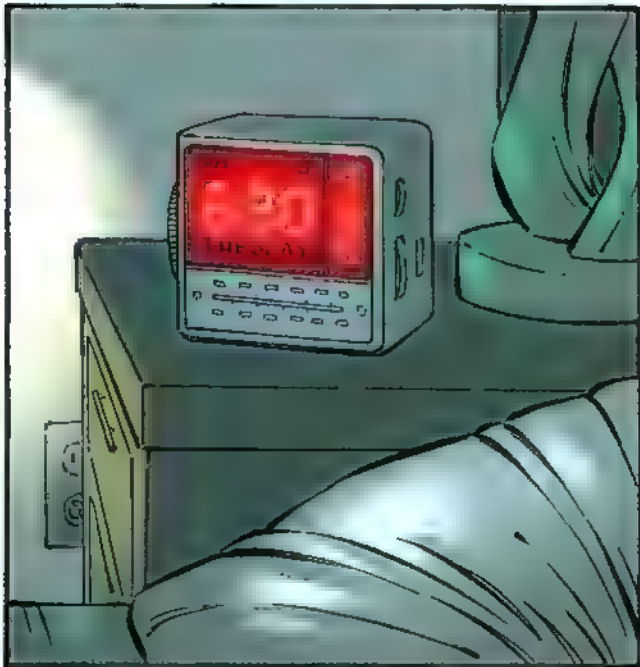
KEVIN SMITH STORY

JOHN ROMITA JR. PENCILS

NORM RAPMUND INKS

AVALLON COLORS

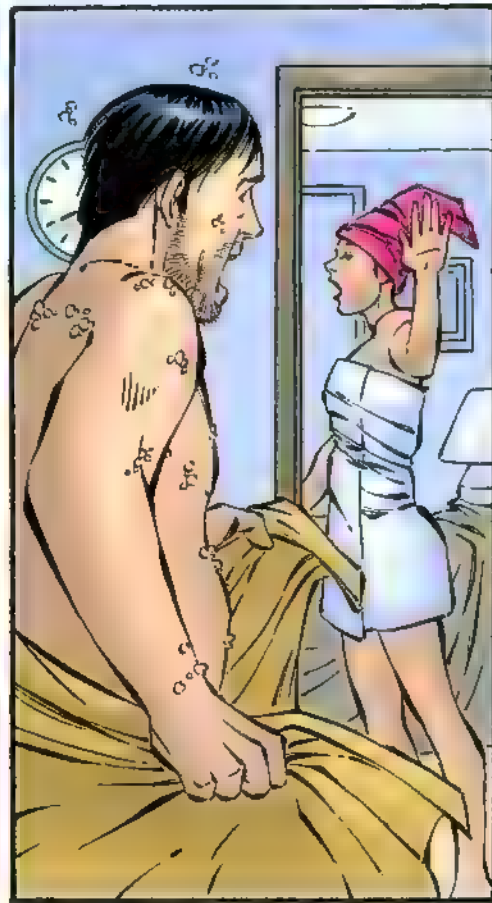
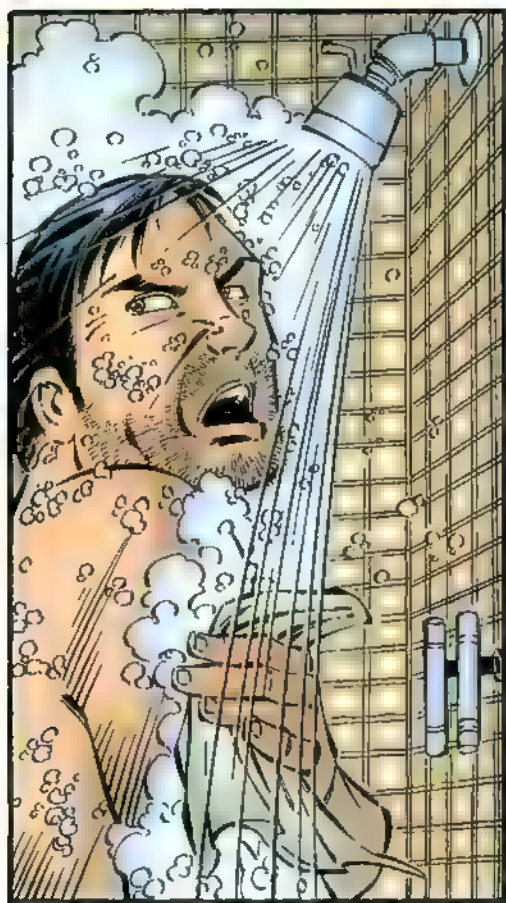
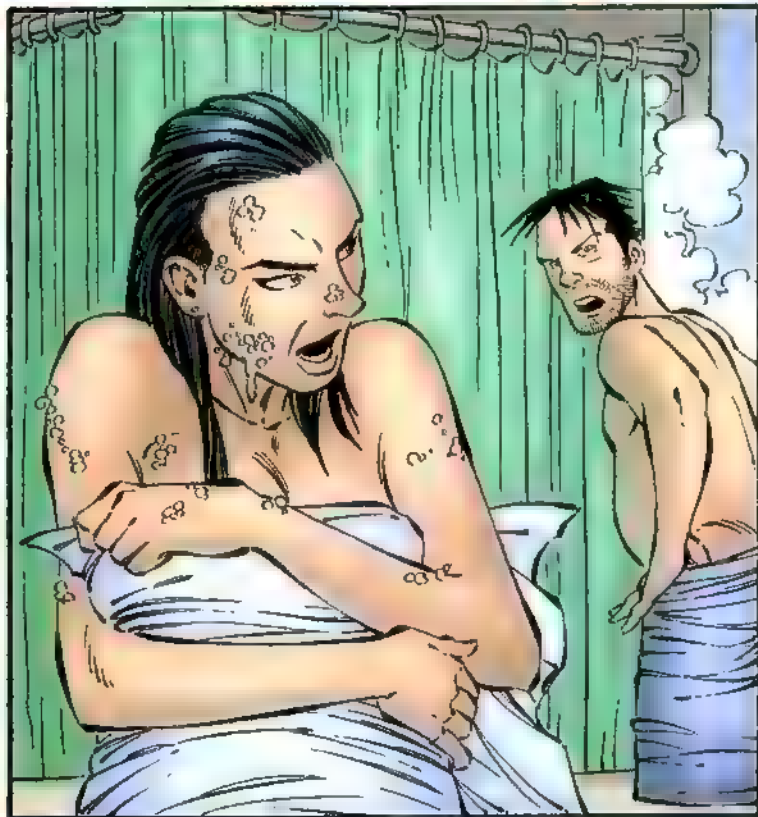
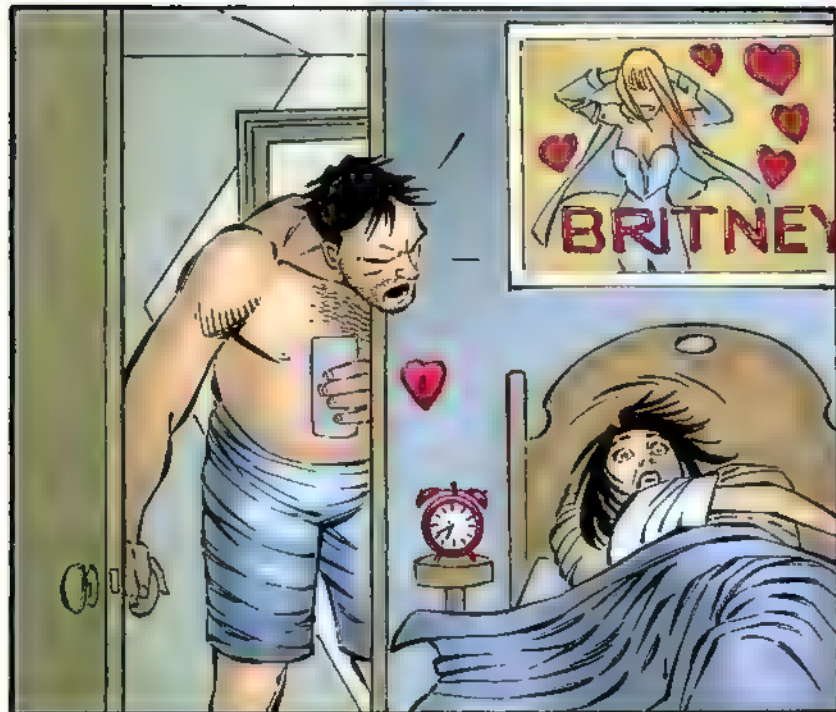
SHARPEFONT'S PT-LETTERING



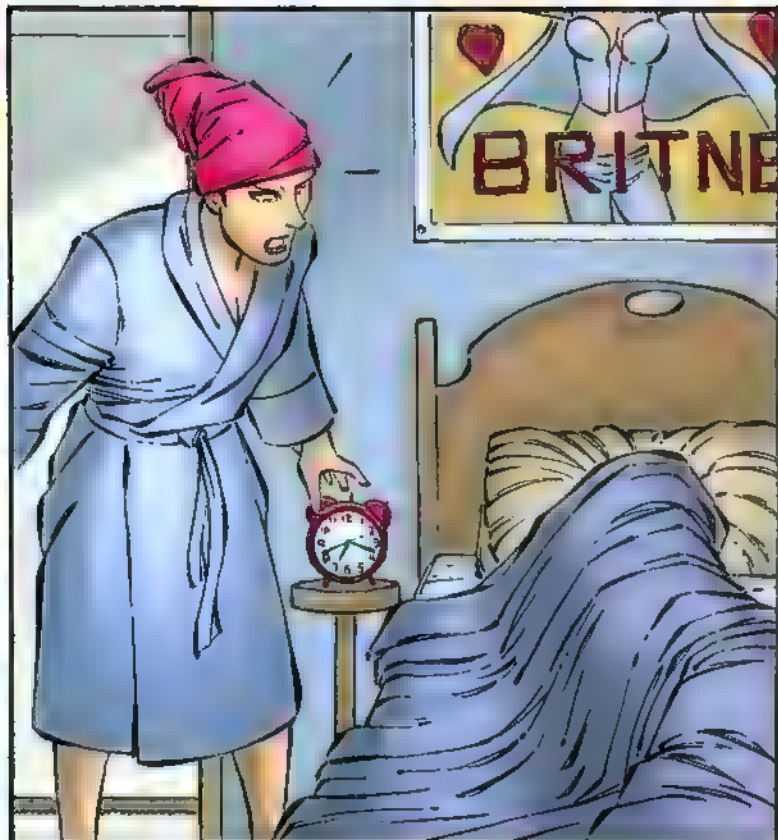
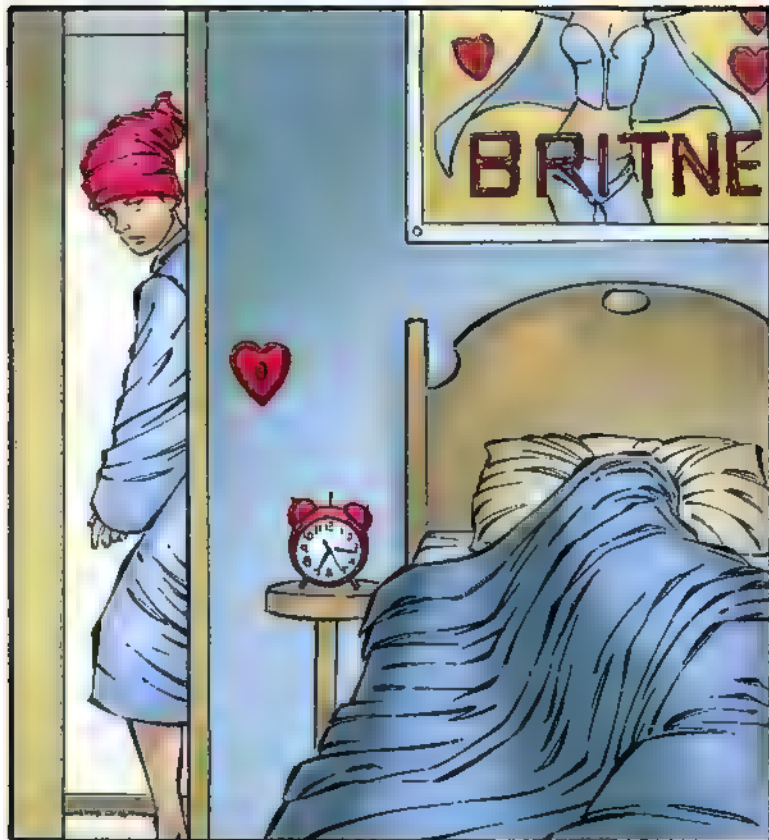
CHICKEN TEA  
MILK YOOHOO  
MOSHI ELAKES  
BREAD  
CANDY

my dad workig in a  
big billdig in NY  
Kingkong climbed  
it time but not when  
dad was workig!





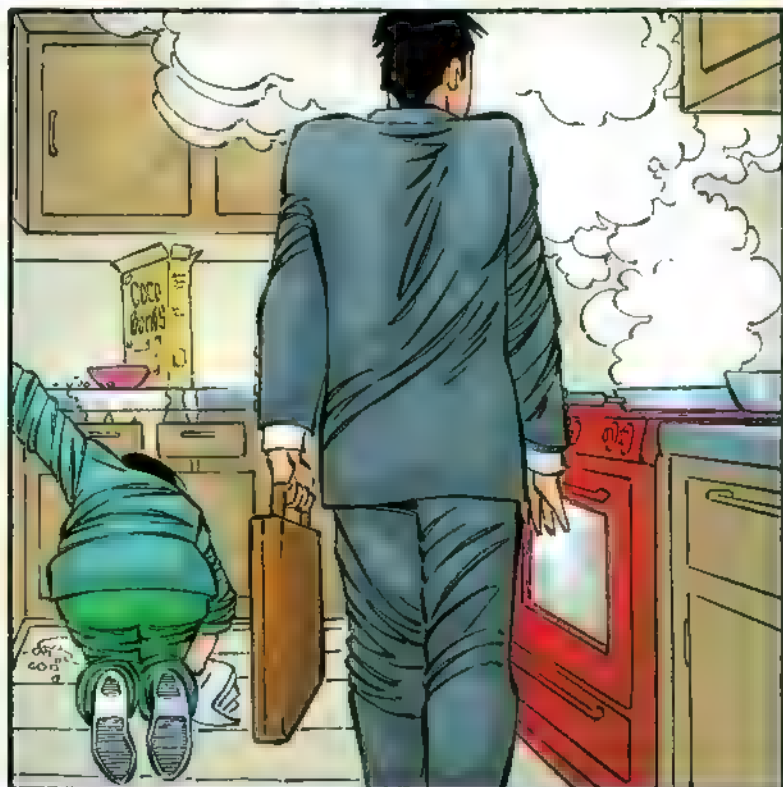




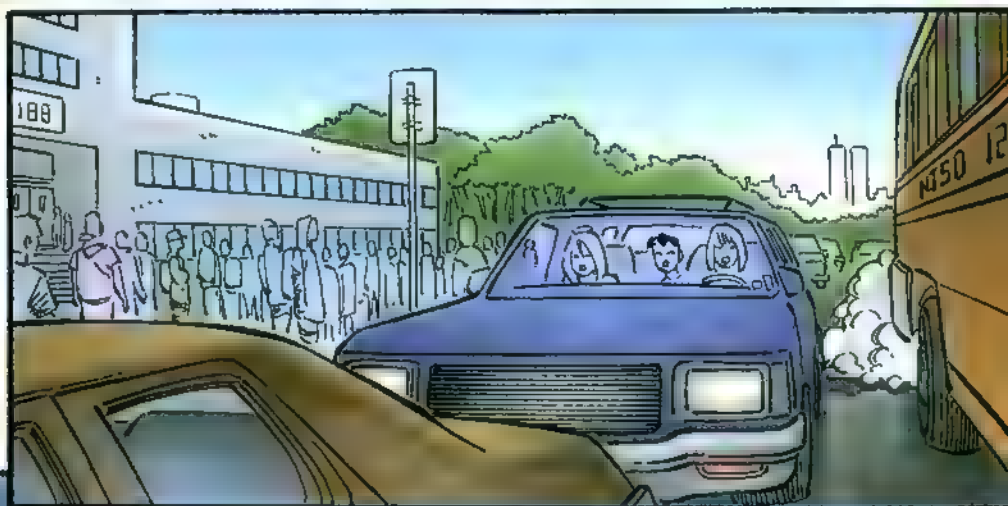
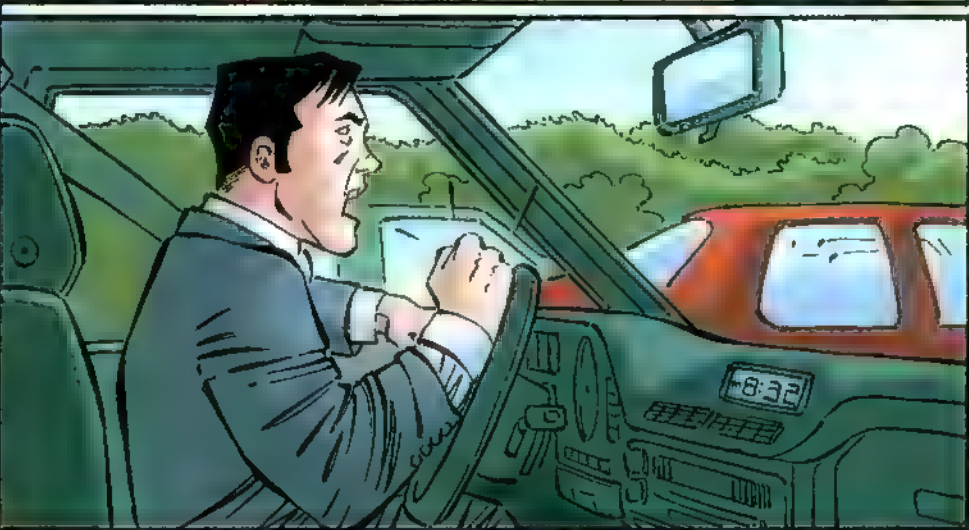
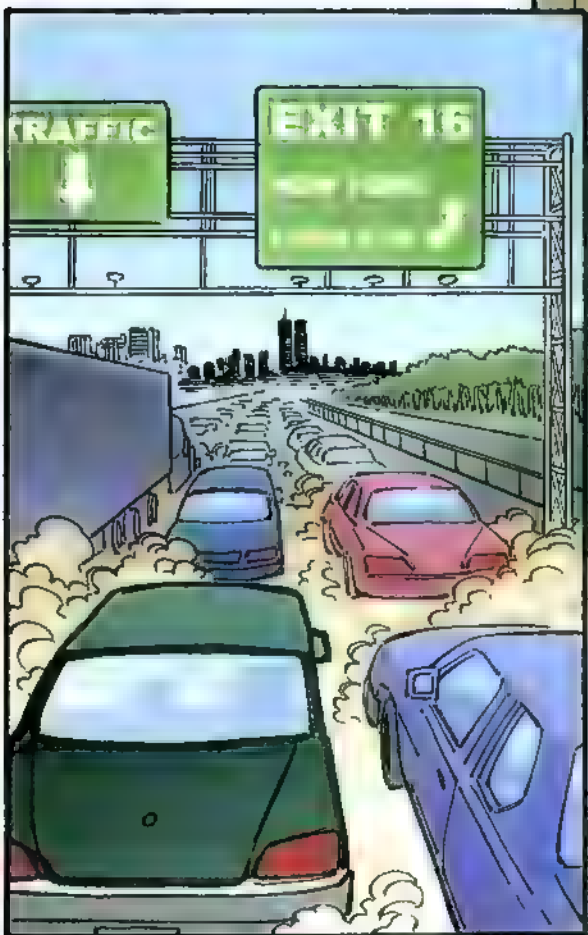




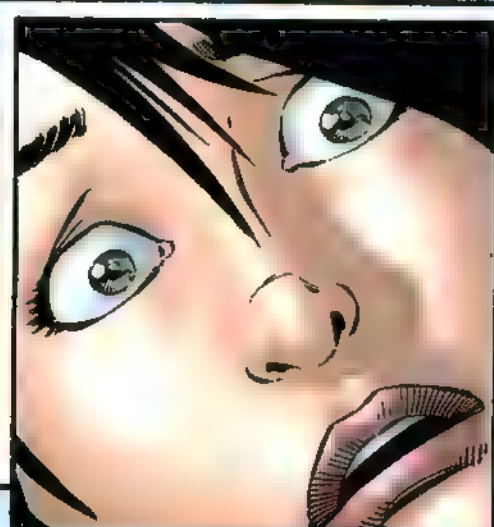
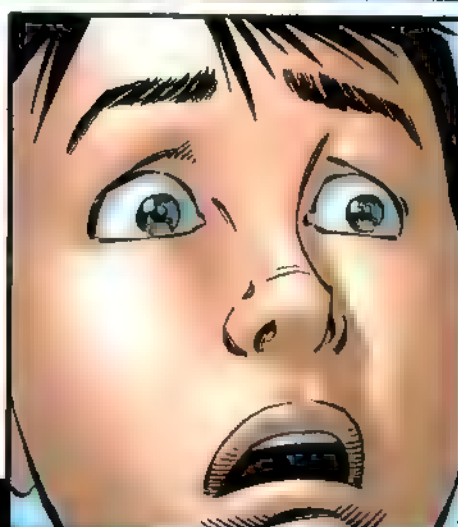
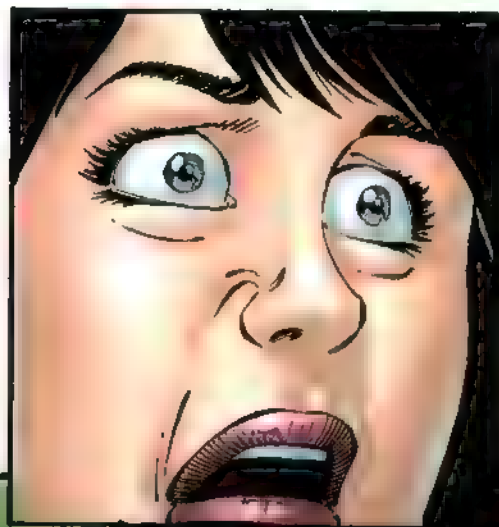
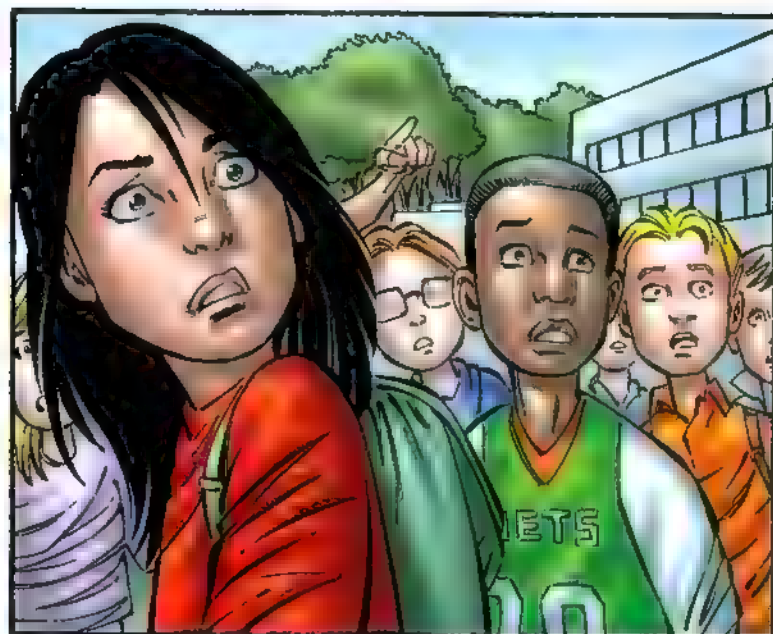
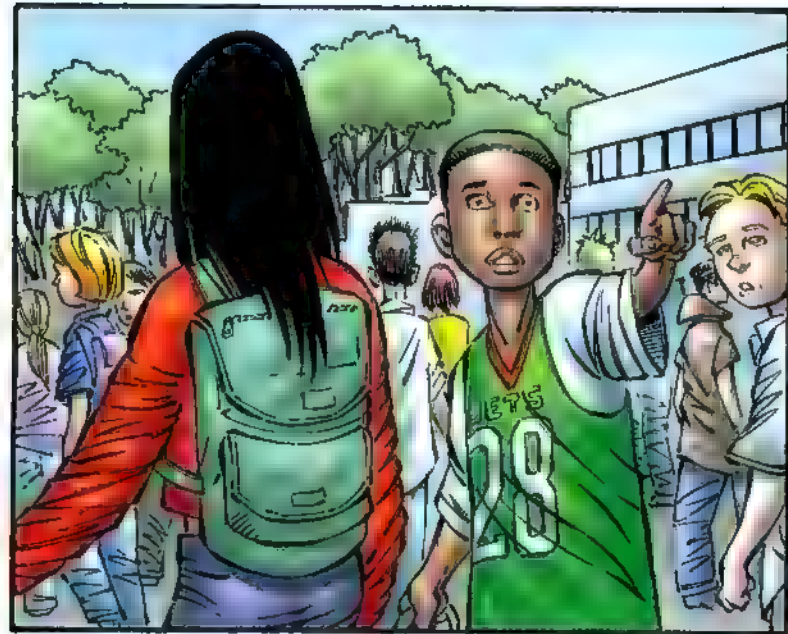




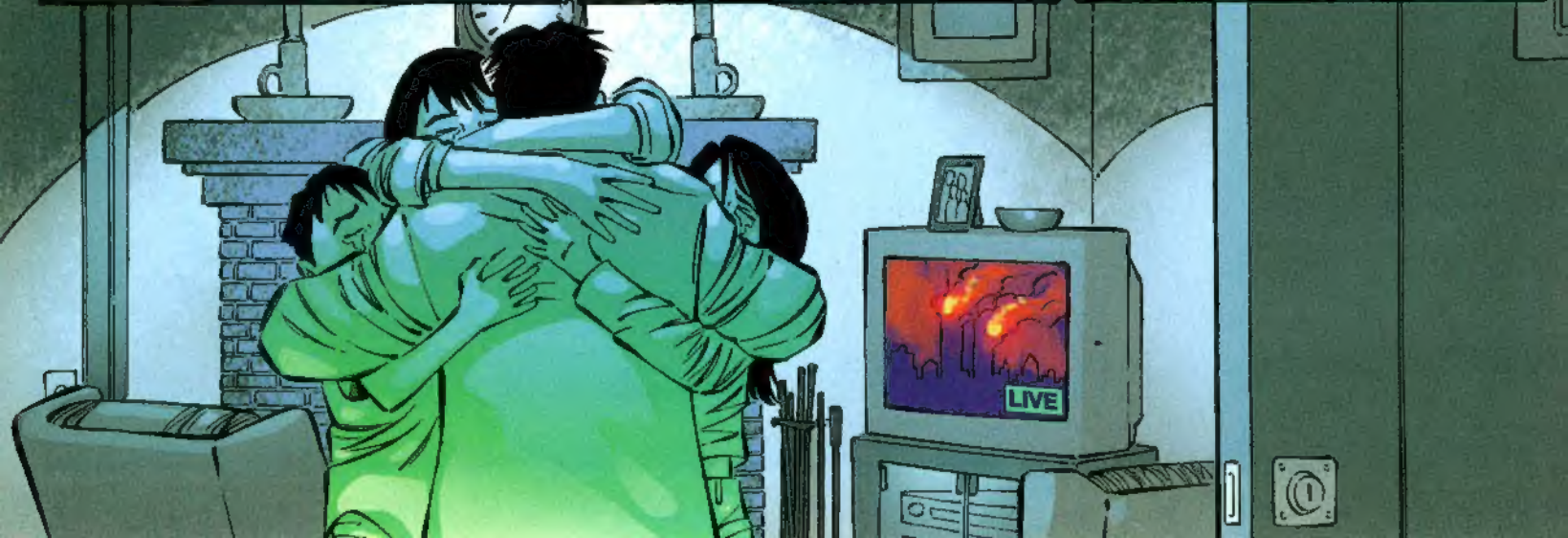
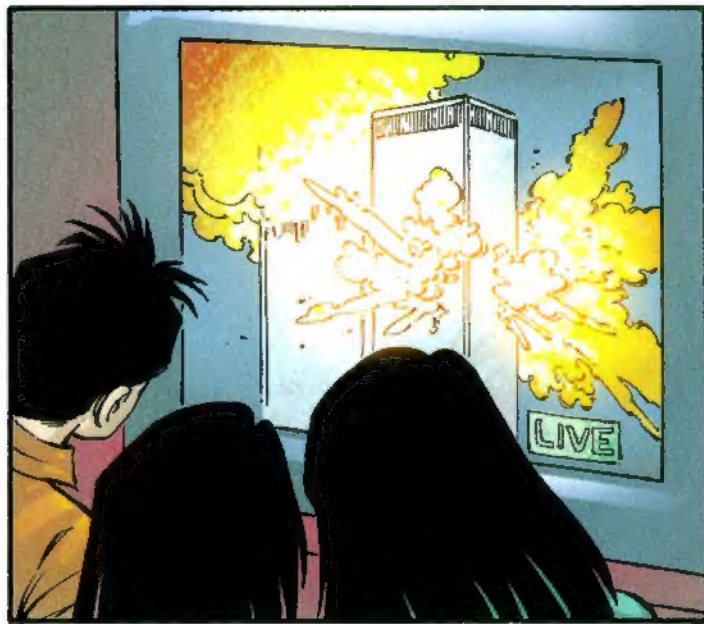














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